

## **City of Frederick**

City Hall - 101 North Court Street

Frederick, Maryland 21701

### **Minutes**

#### **Taxicab Commission Meeting**

**5:30 P.M.**

Wednesday, April 13, 2010 - Room 212 - City Hall

**Present:** Alderman Kelly Russell, Alderman Shelley Aloï, Eileen Farrar, William Bowie, Willie Mahone, Jerry Wood, Peggy Bowie, Blaine Young, Rachel Depo, Mark Mohebi, Gene Alston, Alderman Carol Krimm, Eileen Farrar

#### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes from the meeting of February 16, 2010.**

Minutes were approved as written.

#### **Item 2: Discussion regarding the need for a lottery for new taxicab permits**

Alderman Russell opened the meeting and made introductions. Alderman Russell pointed to Section 23-7 of the City Code, which requires that the Commission meet and determine whether or not there will be any new permits issued for the year, which is based on the population count that is provided by the Director of Planning, Joe Adkins. Alderman Russell received a memo from Mr. Adkins, advising the Commission that the population on January 1, 2010, for the City of Frederick was 62,384. Alderman Russell stated that there are currently 61 taxicab permits, which is based on the previous population count of 61,000 and some change and there is a need of adding one more taxicab permit. Alderman Krimm asked Ms. Depo to clarify the number of permits to be issued as defined by the Code. Ms. Depo stated that the Code provides 1 permit per 1,000 City residents. Alderman Aloï wanted to discuss her concerns regarding how funds are needed up front prior to entering the lottery. Alderman Aloï felt that those who are able to raise thousands of dollars have an advantage over a company who is not financially able to raise as much. Alderman Aloï also wanted to discuss the opportunity for taxicab companies to lower their fares in special circumstances to people who are needy, so to speak, or even to senior citizens. Alderman Russell stated that the issues raised by Alderman Aloï would be put on the agenda for future discussion. Alderman Krimm inquired whether the

population count is checked once a year. Alderman Russell confirmed that it's received from Planning on or before May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Public Comment was taken.**

Alderman Russell stated that the Ordinance requires that the Commission at this point make a determination whether to have the lottery. Alderman Russell asked Ms. Depo if a motion was needed to proceed with the lottery. Ms. Depo stated that a motion is required to determine how many permits to issue for the next year. Alderman Russell stated that based on the math, it would require us to issue one new permit. Ms. Depo stated that we are presuming that everyone who had a permit in the previous year wishes to renew it. It is possible that someone may not want to renew their permit and we would end up with more. Ms. Depo further stated that we need to confirm that all existing permits will be renewed. Mr. Alston stated that he has notified all permit holders, giving them until the 20<sup>th</sup> to respond whether or not they will be renewing their permits. Alderman Russell asked all the taxicab permit holders that were present at the meeting, if they intended to renew their permits. All of the permit holders stated they planned to renew their permits.

Alderman Aloï wanted to know the procedure for the lottery. Alderman Russell stated that Special Vehicle Coordinator organizes the lottery and it's an administrative function. Alderman Aloï reiterated her concerns about lottery and how she felt that the odds were slanted in favor of those who are able to raise more money. Ms. Depo stated it's only one application fee per available permit. Alderman Russell stated that she understood Alderman Aloï's concerns regarding the process, but the Commission is required to comply with the Ordinance. Alderman Aloï wanted to know the circumstance regarding Mr. Mahone's comment and the circumstances of Bowie Cab having one of their permits revoked? Alderman Russell stated that she would provide Alderman Aloï with documentation regarding the matter after the meeting because it has no bearing on today's meeting.

Alderman Krimm moved to have the lottery on or before June 1, 2010 and Alderman Russell seconded.

**Public Comment was taken.**

There was a unanimous vote 3-0 to schedule the lottery.

**General Public Comment was taken.**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in room 212.

Minutes submitted by V. Lee Whisner

(tapes available for review)